

Lanning Hochhauser
 Dupage Rivers Fly Tyers
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MDEQ Back Forty Comments
 Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals
 1504 West Washington Street
 Marquette, Mi 49855
DEQ-Mining-Comments@michigan.gov

RE: Opposition to the Back Forty Project

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Dupage Rivers Fly Tyers (DRIFT) 100+ ????????? members strongly oppose the proposed Back Forty Project. Allowing this sulfide ore open pit mine to be created would result in an unwanted environmental problem for the Menominee River, the nearby area, and Lake Michigan.

Members of DRIFT and their friends enjoy fishing the Menominee River for smallmouth bass, lake sturgeon and other game fish. They don't want to lose the fishing opportunities this river provides due to the injuries that the Back Forty Project will produce. Remember that a big part of Michigan's economy is based on tourism, our members trips to the Menominee River contribute to Michigan's tourism economy.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working on the Lake Sturgeon Passage program along with the Department of Natural Resources from Michigan and Wisconsin for several years. This \$7,000,000 project, which will be completed in the Spring of 2017, will be defeated if this sulfide mine is allowed to be developed. Freshly spawned sturgeon's eggs and young fish need clean river water to start their lives. The expected water and air pollution produced from this mine will prohibit these sturgeon from properly developing.

Clear evidence of expected mining pollution in the Menominee River is stated in the approved NPDES Permit (#M10059945). The Antidegradation section clearly states "...that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified important social and economic development in the area". Michigan and the rest of the United States already have too many expensive environmental problems, some of which can't be solved. There is no good reason to create another one that will eventually cost taxpayer monies to correct the problems Aquila Resources Inc. will create at the Back Forty Project.

The financial assurances provided by Aquila required by the mine permit won't be adequate to correct the problems. In fact, it's very likely that Aquila will take all necessary steps to prevent the State of Michigan from accessing these funds. If they are successful taxpayers will be paying for the cleanup and not Aquila.

DRIFT opposes the Back Forty Project proposed by Aquila Resources Inc. Deny their mine permit application and don't allow the mine to be created.

Sincerely,

Lanning Hochhauser
For the members of DRIFT

Financial assurance adequate...stop payment e.g. Trump style

Wetlands...

Indian

Tourism

Michigan has too many pollution problems to allow another one to be created....list numbers